

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 H-03 NSC-10 SS-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11365

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET ANALYST'S VIEWS ON STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION

1. SOVIET MILITARY ANALYST SVYATOV OF USA INSTITUTE TOLD EMBOFF AND DATT AT US AIR ATTACHE RECEPTION SEPT 18 THAT QUANTITATIVE REDUCTIONS WERE IN HIS "PERSONAL OPINION" MOST PROMISING APPROACH TO PERMANENT TREATY ON OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

2. SVYATOV BELIEVED REDUCTION OF OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS BY PERHAPS 30 PERCENT WOULD BE REALISTIC GOAL. RECOGNIZING CRUDITY OF COUNTING ONLY DELIVERY SYSTEMS, HE FELT SOME FORMULA MEASURING "PAYLOAD" COULD BE EMPLOYED. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF "PAYLOAD" SEEMED TO BE SAME AS "THROW WEIGHT." IN DISCUSSING QUANTITATIVE REDUCTIONS, HE SEEMED TO BE SUGGESTING THAT HEAVY B-52 PAYLOADS SHOULD BE EQUATED AGAINST SS-9 PAYLOADS. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR WORK RECENTLY DONE BY BROOKINGS INSTITUTE ALONG FOREGOING LINES.

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3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, SVYATOV SEEMED PROUD OF

RECENT SOVIET MIRV TESTS. IN ADDITION TO PREDICTABLE ARGUMENTS THAT SOVIETS HAD RIGHT TO DO WHAT US HAD DONE, SVYATOV SAID HE THOUGHT AMERICANS PUT TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON VULNERABILITY OF LAND-BASED SYSTEMS. MIRV WAS NOT DESTABILIZING BECAUSE US STILL HAD OTHER TWO COMPONENTS OF DETERRENT TRIAD. WHILE IMPLICITLY RECOGNIZING GREATER DIFFICULTY OF AGREEING ON QUALITATIVE LIMITATIONS IN WAKE OF SOVIET MIRV TESTS, SVYATOV THOUGHT SOME CEILING ON TESTS COULD NEVERTHELESS BE COMBINED WITH QUANTITATIVE REDUCTIONS IN A PERMANENT TREATY.

4. COMMENT: SVYATOV MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS NOT EXPRESSING OFFICIAL VIEWS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE WAS REFLECTING HIS READING OF US SOURCES MORE THAN THE THINKING OF SOVIET POLICY CIRCLES. WHATEVER THE ORIGIN OF HIS IDEAS, HE SEEMED ATTRACTED TO THE IDEA OF QUANTITATIVE CUTS IN OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS AS A STEP THAT WOULD MEET THE POLITICAL NEED TO CONVINCE THE REST OF THE WORLD THAT THE US AND USSR WERE ENHANCING EVERYBODY'S SECURITY IN SALT.

5. DATT, PARTICIPATING IN SAME DISCUSSIONS, FELT THAT SVYATOV, WHO IS PARTICULARLY ADEPT AT QUOTING US SOURCES BACK IN THE AUDIENCE, WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING US VIEWS ON QUANTITATIVE VS QUALITATIVE REDUCTIONS, SPECIFICALLY THE OFFICIAL STANDING, IF ANY, OF THE BROOKINGS STUDY.

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